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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Agenda item 8
Ongoing priorities and themes and follow-up:
"Data collection and disaggregation (2004)"

Recommendations on item 8

Submitted by the Rapporteur

Ongoing activities and themes (data collection and disaggregation of data on indigenous peoples)

1. The Permanent Forum welcomes the reports on the various regional, thematic and international workshops on indicators organized by indigenous peoples' organizations in collaboration with the secretariats of the Forum and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Appreciating that these workshops are the beginning of a long-term process, the Forum invites those organizations to continue building indigenous partnerships on indicators, and to carry out the concrete activities identified in their reports, together with Governments, United Nations agencies and technical experts.

2. The Permanent Forum thanks the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional of the Government of Spain, the Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway and the Swedish International Biodiversity Programme for their financial support for the regional, thematic and international seminars on indicators relevant to indigenous peoples, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals, and urges other donors to contribute to this important work.

3. The Permanent Forum looks forward to the decisions of the ninth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on indicators and on the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, and other related indicators in the strategic plan and biodiversity target for 2010. It calls on the International Labour Organization to provide more information in the future on the status and trends in the practice of traditional occupations.

4. The Permanent Forum urges Governments, indigenous organizations, United Nations agencies and academia to collaborate on national or subnational pilot projects on data disaggregation and collection as recommended by the Asia regional

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workshop on indicators, and calls on the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to support these efforts. Taking note of the need for guidelines to ensure the use of culturally sensitive, objective and survey instruments, the Forum invites universities and other technical experts to address this need.

5. Recalling the inter-agency support group report on data disaggregation, the Permanent Forum calls for the implementation of the following recommendations:

(a) The United Nations system should use and further refine existing indicators, such as the common country assessment indicators, Millennium Development Goal indicators and country progress reports, global monitoring instruments and human development indexes to measure the situation of indigenous and tribal peoples;

(b) The national human development reports, produced through nationally owned, editorially independent processes, should systematically include case studies, and should include disaggregated data on indigenous and tribal peoples.

6. The Permanent Forum recommends that the Member States that have not yet done so use their national statistics institutions systematically to collect disaggregated data on indigenous peoples while collecting national census data, for the purpose of informing public policies and resource allocation.

7. The Permanent Forum welcomes the establishment of the Regional Initiative on Indigenous Peoples' Rights and Development of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and in particular the pilot projects on gathering disaggregated data in the Philippines and Nepal. Furthermore, the Forum recommends that the Regional Indigenous Peoples' Programme continue this work in other countries and invites UNDP to establish such regional initiatives in other regions.

8. The Permanent Forum welcomes the initiative of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, which proposed a project to collect information on best practices in adapting statistical inquiries to the needs of indigenous peoples. The Forum looks forward to the results of this project and invites the Institute to follow up on this work with the Forum through the Forum secretariat.

9. The Permanent Forum welcomes the activities carried out by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) through its Centre for Latin American Demography — Population Division, in particular its adoption of a rights-based approach that considers indigenous peoples' individual and collective rights included in the 2006 edition of the Social Panorama. The Forum recommends that ECLAC:

(a) Increase the number of sociodemographic studies of indigenous peoples, especially those addressing urbanization and migration and their effects on indigenous peoples;

(b) Continue to develop a system of sociodemographic indicators of the indigenous peoples of Latin America in cooperation with the Fondo Indígena, indigenous peoples' organizations and United Nations agencies;

(c) Support production of information by countries on indigenous peoples with reference to access to, quality and cultural relevance of social services, guaranteeing the full participation of indigenous peoples in this process;

(d) Organize an expert group meeting, to prepare operative recommendations to improve the identification of indigenous peoples in the upcoming 2010 round of censuses and other data sources, ensuring the full participation of indigenous peoples in this process;

(e) Produce technical studies and recommendations to States on human rights-based public policies on indigenous peoples in cooperation with United Nations specialized agencies.